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# NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS  
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## JUNE GENERAL CROP REPORT

### GENERAL CONDITION

Weather in North Carolina from April 20 to May 17 was very unfavorable to crop growth, and farm activity in general. During this period, few localities received rain of any consequence. As a result, spring planting activities were almost at a standstill, growing crops were retarded, and the production of many early truck crops was materially affected.

Moderate to heavy rains fell the last two weeks of May in all sections except scattered localities in the northeastern Coastal Plains. These rains had a marked affect upon vegetative growth and greatly brightened the outlook for fall maturing crops. However, they did not come in time to greatly benefit small grains, commercial early Irish potatoes, lettuce and cabbage. Small grain harvest is now getting underway and should become fairly general in about ten days. Cutting of small grains for hay is about completed.

### WHEAT

Production of wheat in North Carolina is now indicated at 7,953,000 bushels for 1947 - 26 percent larger than the 6,307,000 bushels produced in 1946. Prospective yields for 1947 are now estimated at 16.5 bushels, only one-half bushel lower than the record yield of 17 bushels harvested in 1946 and almost 3 bushels larger than the ten-year 1936-1945 average yield per acre.

Wheat prospects improved considerably during the month of May, due to the general rains received throughout the wheat growing Piedmont. Stands and "stooling" are excellent in most fields, and although heads are short, they are very well filled.

NORTH CAROLINA AND U. S. WINTER WHEAT AND RYE:  
ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, 1946 AND  
INDICATED 1947

CROP	ACRES FOR HARVEST		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
NORTH CAROLINA -						
	THOUS. ACRES		BUSHELS		THOUS. BUSHELS	
WHEAT	371	482	17 0	16 5	6,307	7,953
RYE..	22	23	12 5	12 0	275	276
UNITED STATES						
WHEAT	48,510	54,294	18 0	20 1	873,893	1,093,071
RYE..	1,598	1,891	11 7	13 3	18,685	25,208

\* Indicated June 1, 1947.

### RYE

Rye production is estimated at 276,000 bushels for 1947, compared with 275,000 bushels produced in 1946 and the ten-year average of 435,000 bushels. Yield per acre was indicated on June 1 to

be 12 bushels - one-half bushel less than the 1946 yield, but about 2½ bushels above the ten-year 1936-1945 average.

### OATS

Production of oats is estimated at 12,029,000 bushels - 6 percent less than the 12,870,000 bushels produced in 1946, and compares with the ten-year 1936-1945 average of 6,722,000

### BARLEY

Barley production is estimated at 680,000 bushels for 1947, compared with 825,000 bushels for 1946 and the ten-year 1936-1945 average of 598,000.

### HAY AND PASTURES

Hay crops and pastures were retarded considerably by dry weather during late April and early May. However, the crops have made rapid progress since the highly beneficial rains came in late May. The average condition of all hay was reported at 77 percent of normal on June 1, compared with 89 percent a year ago, and the ten-year average condition of 76 percent for June 1. Pasture condition on June 1 was reported at 76 percent of normal, compared with 93 percent on June 1, 1946 and the ten-year 1936-1945 average June 1 condition of 75 percent.

### MILK PRODUCTION

Total milk production in North Carolina during May amounted to 141 million pounds - the same as for May 1946, but 14 million pounds higher than production during April.

### EGG PRODUCTION

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during the month of May is estimated at 125 million, compared with 119 million during May of 1946. Egg production from January through May in 1947 totaled 532 million eggs, compared with 522 million produced during the first five months of 1946. Production per 100 layers was estimated at 1,631 eggs for the month of May.

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### PEACHES

June 1 prospects indicated a crop of 3,383,000 bushels of North Carolina peaches for harvest in 1947, or about 7 percent more than the 3,160,000 bushels harvested in 1946. Production in the ten southern peach producing States is estimated at 25,056,000 which compares with 22,702,000 bushels produced in 1946 and the ten-year average of 16,466,000 bushels. The commercial peach crop in the sandhills section of North Carolina shows good promise. The May drop is over and all varieties have a near full crop on the trees. Further thinning by hand was required on many of the Elbertas. Growers have had good results in holding insects in check and a large clean crop of fruit is anticipated. The Red Bird, Mayflower, and Early Rose crops are expected to start moving around June 10 and Elbertas between July 25 and 30.

### INDICATED PEACH PRODUCTION BY STATES

STATE	*PRODUCTION			
	AVERAGE 1936-45	1945	1946	IND ** 1947
- THOUSAND BUSHELS -				
N. CAROLINA..	1,971	2,172	3,160	3,383
S. CAROLINA..	2,695	6,300	5,944	6,942
GEORGIA.....	5,033	7,395	5,628	6,474
FLORIDA.....	87	96	96	70
ALABAMA.....	1,435	2,000	1,250	1,625
MISSISSIPPI..	875	1,134	868	1,050
ARKANSAS.....	2,040	2,518	2,479	2,886
LOUISIANA....	298	320	293	304
OKLAHOMA....	406	734	598	402
TEXAS.....	1,628	2,336	1,856	1,920
10 STATES....	16,466	25,005	22,702	25,056

\* For some States in certain years, production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.

\*\*Indicated June 1, 1947

### COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS

### SNAP BEANS

#### MARKETINGS HEAVY - PRICES WEAK

Movement of North Carolina's snap bean crop is now under way in all producing areas. Unfavorably dry weather conditions during the first half of May resulted in generally poor quality from first pickings, but quality of later pickings improved considerably because of recent rains. Heavy movement has resulted in a very weak market, with low prices now being received by growers. As of June 1, an expected average yield of 85 bushels per acre supported a corresponding estimate made a month earlier. Prospective production for this year is for 434,000 bushels from an estimated 5,100 acres for harvest. This compares with a production of 396,000 bushels from 4,400 harvest acres in 1946.

(Contd. Page 4)



## NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTION AND DISPOSITION OF CROPS - 1946

## 22 CROPS BRING NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS 30 PERCENT MORE MONEY

North Carolina farmer's receipts from sales of 22 major crops produced during 1946 totaled \$632,447,000 or 30 percent above the \$487,645,000 received from sales of these crops produced in 1945. These figures are based on crop year receipts and are not to be confused with Calender year income. Except for hay, lespedeza seed, and pecans, cash receipts from all crops were higher than a year earlier. Lower cash receipts from hays was accounted for by a smaller total production and lower average prices, compared with the previous year. Production of lespedeza seed in 1946 was only 1.4 percent below 1945, but 48 percent of the 1946 crop was used for seed on the farm where grown,

compared with 35 percent of production in 1945. Only 52 percent of the crop was sold by growers, compared with 65 percent in 1945. Thus the sharp reduction in quantity sold was the major factor accounting for smaller cash receipts from this crop, with a slight drop in production and season's average price acting as contributing factors.

Although prices received for pecans were materially higher than in 1945, the crop was one of the shortest in recent years. This decline in production more than off-set the advance in prices - accounting for the drop in total value of sales.

Higher average prices for tobacco,

along with a larger total production, resulted in a 28 percent larger cash income for the State's 1946 tobacco crop, compared with 1945. For their crop of 927,425,000 pounds, growers received an average price of 49.3 cents per pound, and a total of \$457,638,000. This compares with the previous year's production of 813,810,000 pounds which averaged 43.8 cents per pound and returned growers a cash income of \$356,616,000. Tobacco is a very important crop in North Carolina as evidenced by the fact that the cash income from tobacco in 1946 made up 72 percent of the State's total cash income from the sales of the crops shown in the following table on this page.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1946 PRELIMINARY

CROPS	UNIT	PRODUCTION	USED FOR SEED		FED TO LIVESTOCK	FOR USE IN FARM HOUSEHOLD	SOLD	SEASON'S AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS	VALUE OF PRODUCTION	VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSEHOLD	VALUE OF SALES
			TOTAL	ON FARM WHERE GROWN							
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	DOLLARS	- THOUSAND DOLLARS -		
WHEAT .....	BUSHEL	6,307	710	582	1,514	765	3,446	2.25	14,191	1,721	7,754
RYE .....	BUSHEL	275	174	38	96	4	137	2.35	646	9	322
BUCKWHEAT .....	BUSHEL	48	3	2	38	3	5	1.85	89	6	9
CORN, ALL PURPOSES .....	BUSHEL	58,914	*	-	*49,565	1,880	7,469	1.75	103,100	3,290	13,071
OATS .....	BUSHEL	12,870	*	-	*10,425	-	2,445	1.08	13,900	-	2,641
BARLEY .....	BUSHEL	825	*	-	*586	-	239	1.65	1,361	-	394
COTTON .....	BALES	440	-	-	-	-	440	.324	71,201	-	71,201
COTTONSEED .....	TONS	177	-	-	-	-	160	71.70	12,691	-	11,472
HAY, ALL .....	TONS	1,256	-	-	1,149	-	107	25.50	32,028	-	2,728
LESPEDeza SEED .....	POUNDS	40,900	-	19,600	-	-	21,300	.099	4,049	-	2,109
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS .....	BUSHEL	2,862	610	396	143	-	2,323	2.70	7,727	-	6,272
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS .....	BUSHEL	154	97	63	12	12	67	4.90	755	59	328
PEANUTS, PICKED AND THRESHED .....	POUNDS	306,475	27,200	21,760	800	2,660	281,255	.102	31,260	271	28,688
IRISH POTATOES, ALL .....	BUSHEL	**12,080	720	130	423	2,720	**8,807	1.20	14,496	3,264	10,568
SWEET POTATOES .....	BUSHEL	7,680	396	297	1,997	2,622	2,764	2.30	17,665	6,031	6,357
TOBACCO, ALL .....	POUNDS	927,425	-	-	-	-	927,425	.493	457,638	-	457,638
TYPE 11 .....	POUNDS	348,320	-	-	-	-	348,320	.450	156,744	-	156,744
TYPE 12 .....	POUNDS	454,250	-	-	-	-	454,250	.525	238,481	-	238,481
TYPE 13 .....	POUNDS	110,400	-	-	-	-	110,400	.511	56,414	-	56,414
TYPE 31 .....	POUNDS	14,455	-	-	-	-	14,455	.415	5,999	-	5,999
SORGHUM SIRUP .....	GALLONS	1,215	-	-	-	657	558	2.10	2,552	-	1,172
APPLES (COMMERCIAL CROP) .....	BUSHEL	1,716	-	-	-	500	1,216	2.25	3,861	1,125	2,736
PEACHES .....	BUSHEL	3,160	-	-	-	645	2,515	2.30	7,268	1,484	5,784
PEARS .....	BUSHEL	390	-	-	-	204	186	1.85	722	378	344
GRAPES .....	TONS	5,900	-	-	-	3,600	2,300	200.00	1,180	720	460
PECANS, ALL .....	POUNDS	1,575	-	-	-	580	995	.401	627	228	399
PECANS, IMPROVED .....	POUNDS	1,433	-	-	-	500	933	.406	582	203	379
PECANS, WILD OR SEEDLING .....	POUNDS	142	-	-	-	80	62	.318	45	25	20

\* The values shown are for the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.

\* Seed not shown separately, combined with "Fed to Livestock"

\*\* Production and sales estimates include 1,379,000 bushels unharvested but purchased by Government under price support programs.

## COMMERCIAL HATCHERY

## PRODUCTION

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced an estimated 6,947,000 chicks during April 1947. This was 4 percent below output during the same month a year earlier, but 21 percent above the 1941-45 April average. Production during March 1947 was estimated at 6,066,000 chicks.

Hatching during the first four months of 1947 (January to April inclusive) amounted to 20,419,000 chicks and was only slightly below the output of 20,827,000 during the first quarter of 1946.

## PRICES

Prices received for baby chicks on May 1 by North Carolina hatcheries for all breeds, with the exception of straight-run of the heavy breeds and sexed cockerels of the light breeds, were higher than a month earlier. Sexed pullets of both light and heavy breeds showed price ad-

vances of 50 and 60 cents per 100 chicks, respectively, over the previous April 1. The price per 100 chicks for sexed cockerels of the cross breeds was up 60 cents from a month ago. Sexed cockerels of the light breeds were the only class showing a price decrease from April 1. They were down 10 cents per 100 chicks.

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED PER 100 CHICKS BY NORTH CAROLINA HATCHERIES MAY 1, 1947

BREEDS	ST. RUN	SEXED PULLETS	SEXED COCKERELS
- DOLLARS PER 100 CHICKS -			
HEAVY....	13.40	18.60	11.80
LIGHT....	13.80	24.90	5.20
CROSS....	13.20	18.30	11.60

For the United States, hatchery production of chicks in April is estimated at 310,664,000, or 10 percent less than in April last year. Chick production during May is expected to be about the same or slightly larger than in May 1946.

## COTTON

DOWNWARD TREND IN ACREAGE  
INCREASE IN YIELDS

Cotton production in North Carolina has been on a downward trend since 1926 when the peak of production was reached in the Old North State. During 1926 there were 1,208,000 bales produced in North Carolina, however, production in 1947 was only 440,000 bales or 36 percent as large as in the peak year. The lowest production since the turn of the century was in 1938 when only 388,000 bales were grown in the State. The second lowest was in 1945, when only 428,000 bales were produced. In 1866, when yearly estimates of the crop were begun, only 109,000 bales were grown in North Carolina on 390,000 acres harvested. Growers only picked 124 pounds per acre in that year.

For the 5 year period immediately following the civil war, the yield per acre of North Carolina cotton was only 147 pounds compared with the past 5 year average yield of 389 pounds of lint.



## PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

## INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED

On May 15, the index of prices received by North Carolina farmers for their products was 260 percent of the 1910-14 average. This was a decline of one point from a month ago, but 51 points above May of 1946. Lower prices received by farmers for meat animals in mid-May lowered the price index for meat animals 12 points from a month earlier. Also showing decreases from the previous month was the index of prices received by farmers for grains, cotton and cottonseed, and dairy products. On the other hand, higher prices received by farmers for poultry and miscellaneous farm products on May 15 limited the decline of the all farm product index to one point compared with a month earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS  
NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED (AUG. 1909-JULY 1914 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	MAY 15 1947	APR. 15 1947	MAY 15 1946	MAY 15 1945	MAY 15 1944
ALL FARM PRODUCTS....	260	261	209	187	180
GRAINS.....	216	220	172	157	167
COTTON & COTTONSEED.....	272	275	201	175	169
MEAT ANIMAL.....	321	333	238	225	206
POULTRY PRODUCTS.....	214	208	197	198	162
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	219	221	177	172	169
MISCELLANEOUS.....	247	241	249	220	216
RATIO PRICES RECEIVED TO PRICES PAID*.....	114	113	113	108	107
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED.....	272	276	211	200	194
PRICES PAID, INTEREST TAXES.....	229	230	185	173	169
RATIO OF RECEIVED TO PAID.....	119	120	114	116	115

\* Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid in United States

## GRAINS DOWN

North Carolina farmers received lower average prices for grains on May 15 than a month ago. Barley and wheat showed the sharpest drop and were down 10 and 7 cents per bushel, respectively. Corn averaged \$1.82 per bushel - a decline of 2 cents. Rye at \$2.41 per bushel was 4 cents under a month ago. Oats were selling for \$1.12 compared with \$1.13 in mid-April.

## HOGS LOSE \$2.00

For the second consecutive month, North Carolina farmers received lower average prices for hogs. On May 15, farmers were receiving an average of \$20.70 per hundred pounds for hogs - \$2.00 less than in mid-April. Beef cattle held to last month's level of \$15.10 per cwt., while veal calves at \$18.30 per hundred pounds were up 30 cents. Sheep averaged \$8.90 per hundred pounds - an increase of 60 cents over the mid-April price. Lambs showed a decline of 20 cents on the hundred pounds compared with the previous month.

## DAIRY PRODUCTS WEAKER

Milk, wholesale, returned producers an average of \$5.30 per hundred pounds on May 15, or 10 cents less than a month ago. Butter and butterfat at 54 and 56 cents per pound, respectively, were down 1 cent from mid-April. Chicken and eggs showed slight price increases from last month.

## UNITED STATES PRICES

For the first time in 8 months, the parity index (prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes) declined. As of May 15, this index stood at 229 compared to 230 a month earlier. At the same time, the index of prices received by farmers dropped from 276 to 272, so that the parity ratio, or average relation of prices received to parity, declined slightly.

The downturn in the parity index resulted from lower prices for feed, food, household supplies, and seed, which were not fully offset by slightly higher prices of building materials and furniture. Clothing prices remained substantially unchanged. On May 15, farmers' living and production costs, including interest and taxes, were 24 percent above a year ago. Except for minor upturns for wheat mill-feeds and oats, lower prices were reported for all major feeds, including hay, corn and corn products, mixed dairy feeds, vegetable proteins, and tankage. Lower prices also prevailed for food except flour, rice, round steak, bananas, and apples.

The decline in prices received by farmers was led by lower prices for dairy products, meat animals, and oil bearing crops. These were only partially offset by higher prices for cotton and some vegetables.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS  
MAY 15, 1947 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES
		MAY 15 1947	APR. 15 1947	MAY 15 1947
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
CORN.....	BU.	1.82	1.84	1.59
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.50	2.57	2.39
OATS.....	BU.	1.12	1.13	.888
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.60	1.70	1.42
RYE.....	BU.	2.41	2.45	2.45
COTTON.....	LB.	.336	.332	.335
COTTONSEED.....	TON	77.00	89.00	83.70
HOGS.....	CWT	20.70	22.70	22.90
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT	15.10	15.10	18.60
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT	18.30	18.00	20.10
SHEEP.....	CWT	8.90	8.30	8.78
LAMBS.....	CWT	17.60	17.80	19.80
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.289	.272	.279
EGGS.....	DOZ	.385	.380	.407
MILK.....				
WHOLESALE.....	CWT	*5.30	5.40	3.84
RETAIL.....	QT.	.180	.180	.169
BUTTER.....	LB.	.54	.55	.59
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.56	.57	.63
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.106	.104	.100
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	3.10	2.95	3.01
COMPEAS.....	BU.	5.20	4.80	4.81
HAY ALL LOOSE.....	TON	24.90	25.00	16.80
HAY ALL BALE.....	TON	31.00	32.00	
WOOL.....	LB.	.460	.470	.390
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.70	1.70	1.53
S. POTATOES.....	BU.	2.40	2.25	2.33
APPLES COMM. L.	BU.	3.40	3.40	3.18
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT	10.00	10.40	8.33

\* Preliminary

## PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

North Carolina farmers were paying lower average prices for most feeds on May 15 than a month earlier. Tankage, with a decrease of 80 cents per hundred pounds, led the decline in prices paid. Mixed dairy feeds of 16 and 18 percent protein, held to last month's average. Prices paid by farmers for other feeds declined from 5 to 20 cents on the hundred pounds.

Farmers for the nation as a whole paid less for most feeds on May 15 than in mid-April. Price decreases ranged from 1 cent to 59 cents on the hundred pounds. Alfalfa hay, baled, was down \$1.60 per

ton, and led the price declines: Farmers were paying \$5.83 per cwt. for tankage in mid-May - 59 cents less than a month earlier. Bran, and Middlings showed slight price increases over mid-April. Stock salt held to last month's level of \$1.13 per hundred pounds. The following table gives prices paid for selected feeds by North Carolina and United States farmers May 15 with comparisons.

PRICES PAID BY FARMERS  
MAY 15, 1947 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY AND UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	MAY 15 1947	APR. 15 1947	MAY 15 1947	APR. 15 1947
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
BRAN, PER CWT.....	3.60	3.65	3.16	3.15
MIDDINGS, PER CWT.....	3.70	3.85	3.33	3.29
CORN MEAL, PER CWT.....	5.30	5.50	3.95	4.01
COTTONSEED MEAL, PER CWT.....	4.00	4.20	4.31	4.52
SOYBEAN MEAL, PER CWT.....		4.35	4.20	4.54
MIXED DAIRY FEED: 16 PCT-PROTEIN, PER CWT.....	3.80	3.90	3.76	3.87
18 PCT-PROTEIN, PER CWT.....	4.15	4.15	3.91	3.95
20 PCT-PROTEIN, PER CWT.....	4.25	4.25	3.99	4.09
LAYING MASH, PER CWT.....	5.00	5.10	4.54	4.64
SCRATCH FEED, PER CWT.....	4.85	4.90	4.41	4.46
TANKAGE, PER CWT.....	5.70	6.50	5.83	6.42

## FARM LABOR

North Carolina farmers were paying farm labor an all-time high of \$75.50 per month without board, and \$54.25 per month with board on April 1. If the present high rates continue, the average for 1947 will establish the highest annual average on record. This fact is evidenced by the January-April average, of \$76.13 and \$55.13 per month with and without board, respectively. Farm wages rates in North Carolina are over 4 times as high as they were in the depression years of the early thirties. The trend in wage rates has been upward since 1939, with the sharpest increases occurring during the war years. The table below shows annual farm wage rates in North Carolina since 1929.

NORTH CAROLINA: FARM WAGE RATES;  
ANNUAL AVERAGE PER MONTH WITH AND WITHOUT BOARD

YEAR	WITH BOARD	WITHOUT BOARD	YEAR	WITH BOARD	WITHOUT BOARD
DOLLARS PER MONTH			DOL. PER MONTH		
1930	23.00	32.70	1939	17.10	25.00
1931	17.00	25.00	1940	17.60	25.60
1932	12.00	17.90	1941	20.40	29.00
1933	11.70	17.60	1942	26.60	36.60
1934	14.70	22.00	1943	35.00	48.00
1935	15.80	23.80	1944	41.00	55.60
1936	16.10	23.90	1945	46.00	62.40
1937	17.90	26.10	1946	52.30	72.20
1938	17.30	25.10	1947*	55.13	76.13

\* Average of January and April

## RECORD WHEAT HARVEST

Farmers over the nation are starting to harvest the largest wheat crop in history - around 1 billion bushels.

This year will see more combines on farms than ever before. In the past 12 months nearly 50,000 new ones have been made for farmers in this country. These new ones bring the total to well over 400,000 combines available for harvest this season. Four-fifths of the wheat crop is now harvested with combines.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Crop Reporting Service  
RALEIGH, N. C.

Official Business

Form BAE-A-6/47 - 6,000  
Permit No. 1001

REPORTERS RESPONSIBLE

The information given in Agricultural Estimates is derived from reports of farm reporters. They are the best source from which reliable information can be obtained as to prospects for crops and livestock. The Crop Reporting Service wishes to thank all who contribute to this service by sending in reports. They also wish to encourage others to mail in any forms received by them. Individual reports are confidential and are used only in averages.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR NORTH  
CAROLINA - MAY 1947

PRECIPITATION

The average rainfall for the month based on reports from 77 stations throughout the State was 2.78 inches, which is 1.23 inches below the normal May rainfall for the State. An examination of records for the past 60 years shows that May rainfall amounts are extremely variable. The lowest average rainfall for the State was 0.90 of an inch in May, 1936, while the greatest average rainfall was 7.94 inches in May, 1901. Twelve out of the last 60 Mays have had rainfall averaging less than this year's average.

For the most part, the first two weeks of the month were rainless, though a few scattered showers occurred in some sections, particularly over the mountain counties, on the first three or four days of the month. Some sections of the State particularly the central piedmont, became extremely dry before the onset of the rainy period about the middle of the month. Once, the showers began, though, they continued off and on until the end of the month. Heaviest rainfall occurred at Tapoco in Graham county, where 5.49 inches fell during the month; at Hickory, in northwestern Catawba county, 5.04 inches were measured. Least rainfall occurred in the northeastern part of the State at

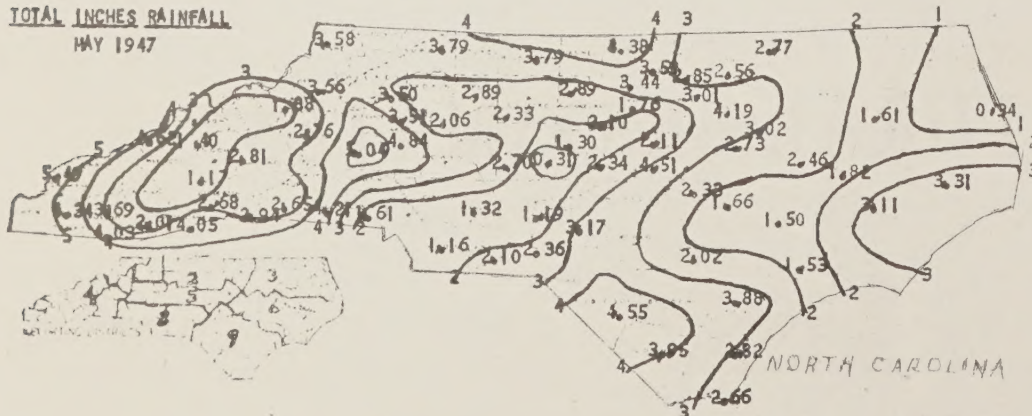
Manteo where only 0.34 of an inch was reported for the entire month. Much below normal rainfall was also reported from a group of southern piedmont counties extending from Union county northeastward to Chatham county and from another group of counties over the western portion of the State extending from eastern Jackson county to Mitchell county. Rainfall in these two sections averaged about one and one-third inches; Ramseur, in eastern Randolph county, measured only 0.81 of an inch for the month.

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures for the month averaged slightly above normal in all sections and were generally favorable for plant growth; however, some reports from northern mountain counties indicated that soil temperatures, even at the end of the month, remained too cool for optimum plant growth. Temperatures, over the western and central portion of the State, were generally below normal the first 10 days of the month, but became much above normal the second and third week. The mercury moved into the middle nineties over the Piedmont on the 17th-19th and a maximum temperature of 97° occurred at Goldsboro and Rockingham on the 18th.

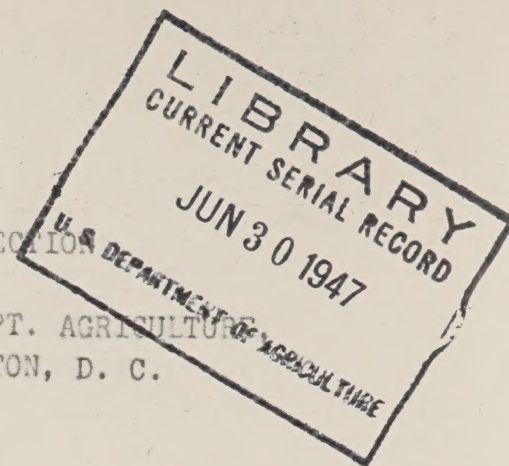
The rainless period, during the first half of the month, combined with the below normal rainfall of late April to produce near-drought conditions in some Areas.

TOTAL INCHES RAINFALL  
MAY 1947



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300  
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TRUCK CROPS

(Continued from Page 1)

WATERMELONS

HIGHER YIELD EXPECTED - NO ACREAGE CHANGE

In North Carolina, the watermelon crop is making rapid growth. Movement of the crop is expected to begin about July 15 in Chowan county and the important producing areas of Scotland, Richmond and Hoke counties and about August 1 in Currituck county. It is estimated that 11,000 acres have been planted for harvest this year which represents no change from the total harvested acres of 1946. Current indications point to a yield of 240 melons per acre, compared with 220 melons last year and the 10-year average of 217 melons per acre.

CUCUMBERS

ACREAGE INCREASE - LOWER YIELD EXPECTED

In North Carolina, the crop is making rapid growth as the result of recent rains and prospects have improved materially over those two weeks ago. Harvest of the 1947 crop got underway around June 5.

INDICATED CUCUMBER PRODUCTION BY STATES  
PRODUCTION

STATE	AVERAGE 1936-45	1945	1946	IND. * 1947
Late Spring Group	- THOUSAND BUSHEL -			
LOUISIANA.....	55	81	100	64
ALABAMA.....	192	182	195	264
GEORGIA.....	94	95	170	158
S. CAROLINA.....	366	530	770	700
N. CAROLINA.....	284	318	504	518
ARKANSAS.....	61	200	150	168
CALIFORNIA.....	484	487	468	570
GROUP TOTAL.....	1,535	1,893	2,357	2,442

\*Indicated June 1, 1947.

The cucumber acreage for harvest this year in North Carolina is estimated to be 12 percent larger than the 6,300 harvested acres in 1946. As of June 1, indications are for a yield of 70 bushels per acre. Production from the State's 1947 crop is estimated at 518,000 bushels - about 3 percent above the 504,000 bushels produced last year and 82 percent above the 10 -year average of 284,000 bushels.